



National Aeronautics and Space Administration
Goddard Space Flight Center

Wallops Flight Facility, Wallops Island, Virginia

Inside Wallops

Volume XIX-98

Number 40

November 2, 1998

Maryland Student and Goddard Science Experiments on Historic John Glenn Flight

With the liftoff of Space Shuttle Discovery, STS-95 at 2:19 p.m. EST on Oct. 29, Mercury astronaut John Glenn returned to space. This historic flight also is carrying science experiments from Goddard and Maryland students.

The primary objective of the flight is to conduct a variety of science

experiments attached to the IEU Hitchhiker and Get Away Special (GAS) canisters. Maryland students from Woodmore Elementary School in Mitchellville and DuVal High School in Lanham provided experiments in the GAS canisters. The University of Maryland is working with Goddard to perform the first test in space on the 3-D sprag.

Sounding Rocket Experiment to Coordinate Shuttle Observations

Experiments on board a Terrier-Black Brant sounding rocket scheduled for launch from the White Sands Missile Range, NM at 1:20 EST, Nov. 2 will perform coordinated observations with satellites on board the Spartan 201-4 and provide calibrations of coronal instruments.

The sounding rocket experiments will perform coordinated observations with the Spartan 201-4 satellite to be deployed by the Space Shuttle, the TRACE Small Explorer satellite and the SNOE University Explorer satellite.

In addition, experiments on the sounding rocket will provide calibration of the coronal instruments on the European Space Agency - NASA Solar and Heliospheric Observatory (SOHO) spacecraft by direct comparison with the radiometrically calibrated solar EUV images and solar EUV irradiances from the solar rocket instruments.

The principal investigator is Dr. Donald M. Hassler of the Southwest Research Institute (SWRI), Boulder, CO.

Wallops Shorts can be found on the back of the newsletter.

Aircraft Crashes During Testing at NASA Wallops Flight Facility

A Bombardier Aerospace M45 Learjet ran off the runway and crashed with a vacant NASA vehicle during FAA certification tests at approximately 3 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 27 at Wallops.

There were three crew members on board the aircraft. Two of them received minor cuts and were transported to Peninsula Regional Medical Center, Salisbury, MD. Both personnel were treated and released. The third refused treatment at the scene. There was no NASA personnel involved in the accident.

The aircraft was conducting tests to demonstrate that water thrown up by the nose and main wheels during takeoff and landing is not directed into the engine in hazardous quantities.

The National Transportation Safety Board is investigating the accident.



The Space Shuttle Discovery (STS-95) lifts off from the Kennedy Space Flight Center.

experiments carried in the pressurized SPACEHAB module, the deployment and retrieval of the Spartan free-flyer payload, and operations with the Hubble Space Telescope (HST) Orbiting Systems Test (HOST) and the International Extreme Ultraviolet (IEU) Hitchhiker payloads.

Goddard is providing a solar observatory, HOST, telescopes

involved six different ultraviolet astronomy experiments mounted on a support structure.

In addition, Wallops Radar 5 (FPQ6) is providing orbital tracking of Discovery. During the mission, Wallops personnel will provide positioning data of Discovery during a total of 37 orbits.

NASA Awards Launch Services Contracts For Small Payloads

NASA has awarded two contracts to provide launch services for NASA and NASA-sponsored small-class payloads under the Small Expendable Launch Vehicle Services (SELVS-KSC) contracts. The companies are Coleman Research Corp., Orlando, FL, and Orbital Sciences Corp., Dulles, VA. The contracts will be administered by the Kennedy Space Center and will include launches from Kennedy, Vandenberg Air Force Base, and Wallops Flight Facility.

The SELVS-KSC contracts will help fulfill the goals and objectives of NASA's Human Exploration and Development of Space enterprise, the Earth Science enterprise and the Space Science enterprise. The SELVS-KSC

contracts are "Indefinite Delivery/Indefinite Quantity" contracts, meaning that the quantity of services to be provided will vary with NASA's needs.

NASA anticipates award of up to 16 missions over the contract's 5-year period. The minimum value of each contract is \$100,000. The maximum value of each contract is \$400 million.

The launch vehicle to be used by Coleman Research Corporation under the contract will be the LK-0. The launch vehicles to be used by Orbital Sciences Corporation under the contract will be the Pegasus XL and the Taurus. Related work will be performed by Coleman Research Corp. in Orlando, FL, and by Orbital Sciences Corp. in Dulles, VA, and Chandler, AZ.

Plain Language in Government Writing

On June 1, 1998, President Clinton sent a memorandum to Heads of Executive Departments and Agencies on the subject of "Plain Language in Government Writing". In this memorandum, he reaffirmed his determination to make the Government "more responsive, accessible and understandable in its communications with the public". To do this, the President directed that, effective October 1, 1998, all Federal agencies must use "plain language" in all documents (other than regulations), including letters, forms, notices, educational materials and instructions. He also directed that, effective January 1, 1999, all agencies must use "plain language" in all proposed and final rule-making documents published in *The Federal Register* (unless the rule was proposed before January 1). Finally, President Clinton urged agencies to begin rewriting existing regulations in "plain language" as soon as possible toward a goal of having all material rewritten by January 1, 2002. I applaud and support the President's "plain language" goals, and effective immediately, we all will adhere to "plain language" standards.

"Plain language" does not mean "dumbing-down" NASA's message. It means using common, everyday words (except when technical terms are needed), using "you" and other pronouns, writing in the active voice and keeping sentences short. It also means organizing messages clearly and logically and presenting material in easy-to-read formats. The same standards also apply to oral presentations.

The Office of Policy and Plans is assembling a team to write NASA-specific Plain Language Guidelines. These will be published as part of the "NASA Correspondence Management and Communications Standards and Style Manual," now being revised. Appropriate training also will be developed and offered NASA-wide. Meanwhile, we will use the "Plain Language Guidelines" provided by the National Partnership for Reinventing Government at:
<http://www.plainlanguage.gov>

Daniel S. Goldin

Federal Employees
Health Benefits
Open Season
Nov. 9 - Dec.14, 1998

Information will be on the Web at:
<http://www.opm.gov/insure>



Jeffrey Alan Watson, Jr. (left) aged 10 months, dressed as a panda bear and his mom, Debbie Watson (Cortez III Service Corporation) Trick or Treat at Wallops. Little Jeff's dad, Jeff Watson also is employed by Cortez.



A strange group was seen leaving a high level meeting at Building F-6 on Friday, Oct. 30. Could it be Halloween? (left to right) Betty Flowers, Linda Layton, Jan Neville and Terry Ewell.

Wallops Shorts.....

Wallops supported Space Enrichment Week, Oct. 26 - 30 at Worcester Country School in Berlin, MD. Wallops activities included a weather balloon demonstration by Jim Nichols (NYMA), SEM and Sub-SEM presentations by Dave Wilcox (Shuttle Small Payloads Projects Office), rocketry and astronomy discussions by Tony Goodyear (Public Affairs Office) and a space suit demonstration by Chris Hunt (CISI).

Fire Department

Wallops Fire Department responded to a mutual aid request from Accomack County 911 on Oct. 27 for rescue equipment and assistance at an accident in Nelsonia involving a log truck.

For Sale

Bushnell Model 78-5100
Banner Astro 400
400 Power 60 mm alt-azimuth mount refractor telescope, good condition, extra lenses, sun filter. \$125. Call Paul Bashor (410) 957-0492 after 6 p.m.

Upcoming Training.....

Around The Table: A Workshop For Women Leaders

(16 hours - Two 8-hour sessions)

This workshop provides insight into a woman's values, current situation and goals. Each participant will develop a plan of action for accomplishing her goals.

Through the use of systems frameworks, the workshop will promote integration and synthesis of the participant's values in the decision making process by including both left and right brain exercises, individual and small group work, theory and experiential activities. The participants will be able to: expand personal development within the Goddard culture, more effectively live out essential values, validate and express the feminine processes, engage in creative leadership and develop a women's network.

The workshop will be offered off-site at Montpelier Mansion in Laurel, MD on Nov.18 - 19 and is Center funded. Training request should be submitted to Code 114 no later than COB Nov. 6. For further information, call Sherry Kleckner, x1204.

Use Excess Leave

NASA civil service employees who will have more than the permitted amount of accrued annual leave by the end of the leave year (Jan. 2, 1999) should be using excess hours in order to avoid losing any annual leave for 1998.

For non-SES employees, the carryover limit is 240 hours. For SES employees, the carryover limit is 720 hours. The only exceptions to these limits are for those employees who have a higher leave ceiling at the time the applicable laws were enacted and have maintained a higher ceiling.

Also, use-or-lose leave that was restored due to the 1995-96 furlough must be used during this current leave year.

Inside Wallops is an official publication of Goddard Space Flight Center and is published by the Wallops Office of Public Affairs, Extension 1584, in the interest of Wallops employees.

Editor Betty Flowers
Photography Optical Section
Printing Printing Management Office